

House File 202 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 202

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an agricultural education pilot project
2 for certain school districts and including effective date
3 provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.24 Agricultural education pilot**
2 **project.**

3 1. An agricultural education pilot project is established
4 to be administered by the department of education.

5 Participating school districts shall include all of the
6 following as part of their education programs under section
7 256.11, for either grades one through six or grades seven and
8 eight:

9 a. The school district's social studies curriculum shall
10 include the history of agriculture in Iowa and awareness of
11 the global and technological importance of agriculture and
12 conservation.

13 b. The school district's science curriculum shall include
14 environment and natural resources, land stewardship, and
15 biofuels and renewable energy.

16 2. For purposes of this section, "*participating school*
17 *district*" means a school district with an enrollment of at
18 least nine thousand students in grades kindergarten through
19 twelve, which contains at least two high schools, and which
20 is identified as a district in need of assistance under the
21 federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110.

22 3. The department shall conduct a survey to evaluate the
23 effectiveness of the pilot project. The department shall
24 provide the survey to superintendents of participating school
25 districts, teachers responsible for meeting the curriculum
26 requirements of subsection 1, students subject to the
27 curriculum requirements of subsection 1, and the parents of
28 students subject to the curriculum requirements of subsection
29 1.

30 4. The department shall submit a report on the agricultural
31 education pilot project to the governor and the general
32 assembly by January 15, 2016. The report shall include the
33 results of the survey conducted pursuant to subsection 3,
34 a recommendation as to whether the pilot project should be
35 continued or expanded, and any recommendations for changes to

1 the pilot project.

2 5. This section is repealed on June 30, 2017.

3 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
4 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
5 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
6 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
7 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
8 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
9 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
10 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
11 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
12 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
13 districts.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill establishes an agricultural education pilot
17 project to be administered by the department of education.
18 The bill requires participating school districts to include
19 additional subjects as part of their education programs under
20 Code section 256.11, for either grades one through six or
21 grades seven and eight. A participating school district must
22 include the history of agriculture in Iowa and awareness of
23 the global and technological importance of agriculture and
24 conservation in its social studies curriculum. A participating
25 school district must also include environment and natural
26 resources, land stewardship, and biofuels and renewable energy
27 in its science curriculum.

28 The bill defines "participating school district" as a school
29 district with an enrollment of at least 9,000 students in
30 grades kindergarten through 12, which contains at least two
31 high schools, and which is identified as a district in need of
32 assistance under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,
33 Pub. L. No. 107-110.

34 The bill requires the department of education to conduct a
35 survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project. The

1 survey will be provided to superintendents of participating
2 school districts, teachers responsible for meeting the
3 additional curriculum requirements, students subject to the
4 additional curriculum requirements, and the parents of students
5 subject to the additional curriculum requirements.

6 The department must submit a report on the agricultural
7 education pilot project to the governor and the general
8 assembly by January 15, 2016. The report must include
9 the results of the survey, a recommendation as to whether
10 the pilot project should be continued or expanded, and any
11 recommendations for changes to the pilot project.

12 The agricultural education pilot project is repealed on June
13 30, 2017.

14 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
15 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
16 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
17 district from state school foundation aid received by the
18 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
19 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
20 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
21 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
22 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
23 mandates included in the bill.

24 The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.